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# INFO & NEWS

*from the*

# Indiana Senate

## Money-Saving Tips: Conserve Gasoline



Over the past several months, Hoosiers have seen gas prices rise substantially, putting a real strain on budgets.

I have compiled a list of gas saving tips that will help reduce the amount of gas you use.

If you need more information on other gasoline resources, visit the attorney general's website at [www.indianaconsumer.com](http://www.indianaconsumer.com)

**Drive Sensibly:** Speeding, rapid acceleration and braking can lower your gasoline mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.

**Observe the Speed Limit:** Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional 10 cents per gallon for gasoline.

**Avoid Excessive Idling:** Idling gets zero miles per gallon, and cars with larger engines generally waste more gas at idle.

**Use Cruise Control:** Cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and will save you gasoline.

**Use Overdrive Gears:** Using overdrive gearing slows your car's engine speeds, which saves gasoline and reduces engine wear.

**Check & Replace Air Filters:** Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.

**Keep Tires Properly Inflated:** Keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressures can improve your gas mileage by around 3 percent.

**Use Recommended Grade of Motor Oil:** Using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil can improve your gas mileage by 1 to 2 percent.

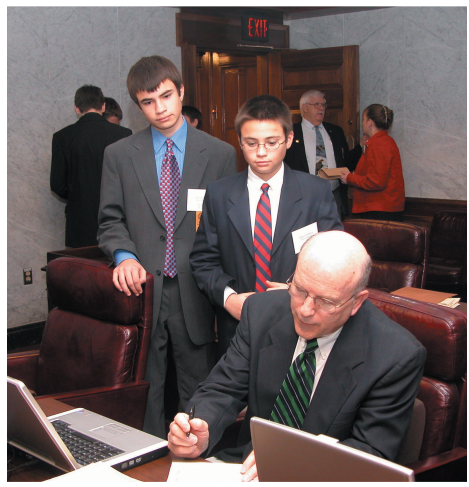


STATE SENATOR

**DENNIS  
KRUSE**

Serving District 14  
in Allen, DeKalb and Steuben Counties





Senator Kruse reviews a document as Senate pages look on.

**Did You Know...?**  
 ... that on June 30, 2006, the state officially overcame a \$600 million deficit and closed its books for the fiscal year with a balanced budget for the first time in a decade?  
 ... that the Indiana Senate spent prudently this past year, resulting in a return of \$903,572.84 to the state's General Fund at the end of Fiscal Year 2006. This is more than four times the amount reverted in FY 2005.

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# Job Creation Legislation Proves Successful

— More jobs for Hoosiers are on the way —

Although the last two legislative sessions have been filled with substantial changes to the way Indiana does business, a priority in the Senate has been job creation. Although government actions cannot create jobs overnight, Indiana is beginning to see results just one year after the major economic development laws of 2005 were implemented.

In 2005, the General Assembly sped up and streamlined the creation of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), created tax breaks for research and development, passed a shovel-ready site development plan and expanded existing tax credits. The result: 85,000 more Hoosiers are working than in January 2005 and unemployment is at a low 4.9 percent.

More jobs are on the way. Recent job announcements include:

- **Honda announcing a \$550 million plant that will employ 2,000 people in Greensburg (the plant will have capacity for 4,000 employees)**

## NEW TELECOM LAW TAKES EFFECT

One of the most important laws passed in the 2006 legislative session was House Enrolled Act 1279, which I co-sponsored, that enacted substantial telecommunications reform. Experts called this bill the most aggressive and forward-thinking telecom reform in the nation. The bill promised to encourage competition while bringing the latest technologies to Indiana at a low cost.

Many of these benefits and the jobs they will create will come in time, but improvements in the way Hoosiers receive information are already in the works.

In April, AT&T announced its "High-Speed to the Heartland Initiative", which will bring DSL internet to more than 30 rural communities in Indiana that previously had no high-speed options. Communities that will be touched include the rural areas of: Andrews,

- **BAE adding 36 new jobs at its Fort Wayne facility, in addition to 50 new jobs created in the last year**

- **Ellison Bakery, a manufacturer of cookies and cookie-based products, announcing a \$3.9 million expansion of its Fort Wayne operations**

- **Central State Enterprises announcing the construction of a 100-million gallon corn ethanol facility in Montpelier, bringing 200 jobs during construction and 40 afterward**

- **Rolls Royce committing to bring 600 aerospace jobs to Indianapolis**

- **Arbonne International opening a 400-employee distribution center in Greenwood.**

- **Nestle selecting Anderson for a 300-job facility**

- **Sallie Mae announcing 700 new jobs in Muncie**

Many other announcements have occurred in the past 18 months, many more are expected in the future, and I am committed to continuing to create a job-friendly environment here in Indiana.

Bruceville, Bellmore, Boswell, Chrisney, Elizabethtown, Heltonville, and many more.

Embarq, Sprint's local telecommunications company, announced it will invest \$18 million in Indiana in 2006. This investment will bring high-speed internet to 88 of the 93 Indiana communities the company serves.

In May, AT&T announced it will invest \$250 million in Indiana in the next three years to deliver enhanced video service and broadband to Hoosiers. The new technology, AT&T U-Verse, will provide Hoosiers with a new competitive alternative in TV programming.

Experts predict that this is just the beginning of technology investment in Indiana. Independent think tank FreedomWorks has stated 20,000 jobs and up to \$7 billion in investment could result from HEA 1279.

# Indiana's Education Initiatives

## Full Day Kindergarten to Be a Priority in 2007

In 2005, the General Assembly made an important change to the way our K-12 schools are funded. We instituted a new formula, which other states are now trying to emulate, that allows a school's appropriations to rise and fall in proportion to enrollment.

Dollars now follow the child rather than being arbitrarily given to corporations. This year, we passed legislation that makes it easier for schools to save money by allowing more flexibility in the way they make purchases. The money that is saved can be redirected into textbooks, technology, school buses, and other needs of the school or classrooms. Currently, only 61% of school operating budgets goes directly toward instruction and learning.

In 2007, I expect to see many more school issues brought forth. The most visible of those is full-day kindergarten. Most states now fully or partially fund all-day kindergarten (FDK). Some experts agree that the additional hours of learning FDK offers puts children further ahead when they

enter first grade. If true, that allows elementary teachers to spend less time playing catch-up and more time introducing new subject matter.

Funding FDK is estimated to cost around \$140 million. The budget deficit of years past has influenced the legislature from not offering funding, but some believe there is enough cash available to fund FDK.

Other education issues that I expect to see include performance-based pay for teachers. Indiana is currently the only state in the nation forbidden from using student performance for teacher evaluations. Performance-based pay could serve as an incentive for teachers to better prepare their students.

Issues such as school choice, school board elections, accountability in higher education, and increased emphasis on Core 40 might also appear in 2007. I look forward to these debates and will continue to cast my votes with the best interest of students at heart.



Sen. Kruse (far right) pictured with members of the Aviation Association of Indiana (AAI) last October. Sen. Kruse was named the 2005 Legislator of the Year during AAI's annual meeting held at Pokagon State Park in Angola.

# Defending the Right to Bear Arms

New laws protect rights of law-abiding citizens

*"The people shall have a right to bear arms, for the defense of themselves and the State."*

Article 1, Section 32 of the Indiana Constitution grants us the freedom to own firearms and store them in our homes. I have always been a firm supporter of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights and would like to tell you about two new laws that protect law-abiding gun owners.

The General Assembly passed legislation this year to simplify the handgun licensing process. Previously, everyone with a handgun license was required to have their permit updated and be fingerprinted every four years — even people who have had such a license all of their adult lives. There aren't too many unchanging things in our lives, but one of those is our fingerprints. The state finally acknowledged that licensed gun owners are law abiding citizens who should not be forced through this arbitrary and cumbersome process every four years.

The Indiana State Police issues about 80,000 gun permits per year; this measure will reduce that number and make the process much more efficient. Safety is still a top priority and law en-

forcement officers will continue to revoke licenses as necessary.

These small, sensible changes are a great improvement of the current system and make the licensing procedure much more efficient.

In addition, the Legislature added to statute something that is already widely accepted as case law. The "Stand Your Ground" law does basically three things to protect those who are protecting themselves.

It establishes the presumption that a criminal who forcibly enters or intrudes into your home or occupied vehicle is there to cause death or great bodily harm; therefore a person may use any manner of force, including deadly force, against that person.

It removes the "duty to retreat" if you are attacked in any place you have a right to be. You no longer have to turn your back on a criminal

and try to run when attacked. Instead, you may stand your ground and fight back, meeting force with force, including deadly force, if you reasonably believe it is necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm to yourself or others.

It provides that persons using force authorized by law shall not be prosecuted for using such force. It also prohibits criminals and their families from suing victims for injuring or killing the criminals who have attacked them. In short, it gives rights back to law-abiding people.

We felt it necessary to add these statutes to make the law in such situations perfectly clear—Hoosiers have the right to defend themselves and their families.

I am pleased we were able to accomplish these things in defense of our Constitution and for Hoosier gun owners.

**"THE PEOPLE SHALL HAVE A RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS, FOR THE DEFENSE OF THEMSELVES AND THE STATE."**

— Article 1, Section 32 of the Indiana Constitution